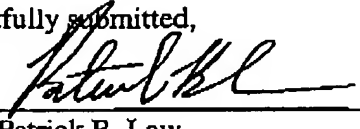


REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 21-23 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 17-20 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 17 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the prior art disclosed in the present application is rendered moot.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-16 and 21-23 are allowed and request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Date: June 9, 2005

Respectfully submitted,
By: 
Patrick B. Law
Reg. No. 41,549

Vedder, Price, Kaufman & Kammholz, P.C.
222 N. LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60601
Telephone: (312) 609-7500
Facsimile: (312) 609-5005

CHICAGO/#1380855.1